

## Naming Names

It is probably true that the names of CIA agents in foreign countries can be discovered one way or another by elements within those countries. Still, it is a wretched practice, akin to an invitation to murder, to publish their identities.

After an Athens newspaper identified Richard S. Welch as the CIA station chief in Greece and printed not only his name but also his address, three gunmen shot him to death outside his home. A Washington, D.C., quarterly called Counterspy previously identified Welch as a CIA agent in Lima, Peru. A quarterly spokesman announced that Counterspy next month will publish the names of CIA agents in Angola, France and Sweden.

The operation of the CIA is a matter to be determined by the government in response to public opinion as represented in Congress. The issue can be debated fully without any need to disclose the identities of CIA agents abroad. It is not an issue to be resolved by inspired assassinations under the spurious claim of devotion to democracy.